



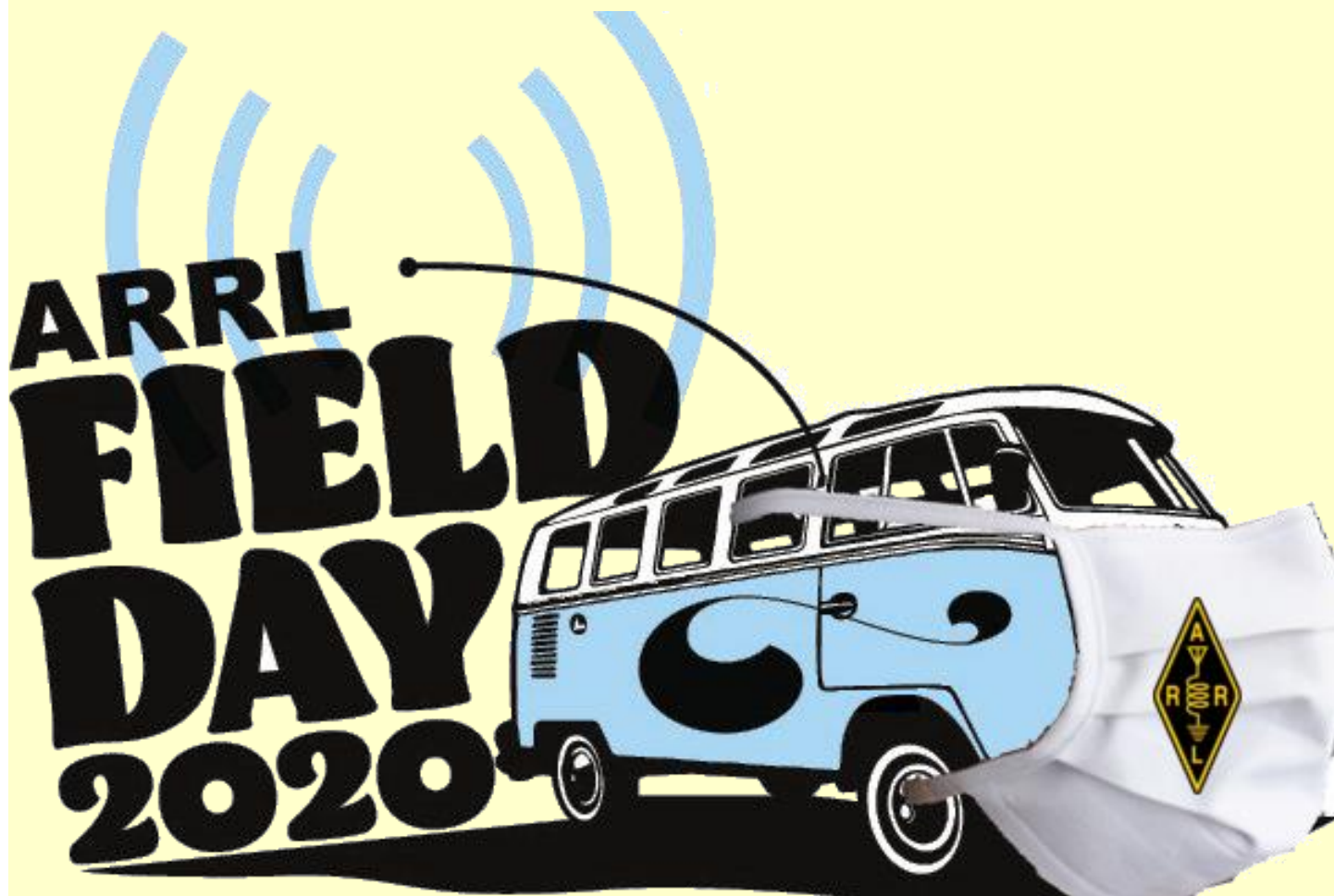
The

# GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
June 2020 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 29, Issue 6



**Field Day 2020 is coming (with a few changes)!**



**Find out more at our online GARS meeting Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 7:00 pm!**

# Message from the President

2020 has certainly been a year of change and turbulence. We were first under “shelter-in-place” orders by the Governor due to COVID-19. Hamfests were cancelled including Dayton Hamvention, the Atlanta Hamfest and finally Huntsville. We had to cancel a club operating site for the Georgia QSO Party. We hunkered down from March through April and waited anxiously for some signs of things opening up in May. Things are improving, but many activities are still restricted or just can’t go as planned. As June was approaching, there has been a lot of discussion about what GARS should do about Field Day 2020.

June is now here and the GARS Officers, Directors and Executive Committee have been exploring options. Three major options have been considered. First, with the ARRL rules changes for 2020, it is easier to operate as individuals or even small groups under your own callsign at your shack. The option is there to add together the individual scores for each callsign if submitted for a club.

The second option considered was to have our club Field Day station at Harbins Park as usual. This option depended on whether Gwinnett Parks would open the pavilions for use, under what restrictions and how many members would be interested in participating. Parks did relax the rules a bit and allowed gatherings up to 25 people and only four tables provided. We also sent out a survey asking club members whether they would attend, for how long, which days and would they plan to be there for setup and breakdown. The survey results indicated about 15 people would attend, but we could not determine for how long. A major consideration is the age of many of our members put them in the vulnerable category and have great hesitation about a very public gathering.

The third option explored a hybrid operation with a limited number of stations operating at the park either in person or by remote control and some operating from home. Several methods of remote operation were tested including Remote Hams/RCForb, TeamViewer and others. Some methods worked better than others for certain modes.



“It’s just under three weeks until Field Day 2020 and although the rules and the operating will be different, we can make it a great event for GARS members and a fun operating event.”

As a final check, we contacted other clubs in the area to see what were their plans. None of the clubs contacted are planning to host a club operating event due to location restrictions, age of the members and other factors. Armed with all the information and options, the GARS Officers with the input of the Directors and other participants in the Executive Committee met yesterday via online meeting to make a decision.

Based on all of the factors, we feel our best option is to operate from home stations and not schedule a club operation from Harbins Park or any alternate location this year. However, we encourage each member to consider operating from their home station or another location of their choosing under

their own callsign. We can still take advantage of the new Field Day rules and submit logs designating Gwinnett ARS to consolidate our scores. Over the next few weeks, we will be providing lots of information to help everyone prepare for Field Day weekend. There will be brief information on tonight’s net and tomorrow’s online meeting. For the GARS Workshop next week, David, our Field Day Chairman, will provide complete information on Field Day operation. I encourage everyone to share your plans and ideas here on GARS@groups.io, the new DISCORD chat app on the # field-day section and tune in for the GARS Workshop next week.

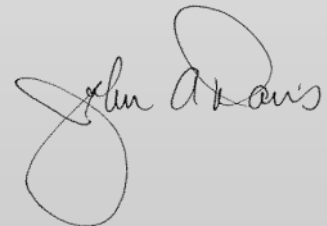
It’s just under three weeks until Field Day 2020 and although the rules and the operating will be different, we can make it a great event for GARS members and a fun operating event. Please share your thoughts and ideas.

73,

**WB4QDX, Club  
President**

***"It is not the class of  
license the Amateur  
holds, but the class of the Amateur that  
holds the license."***

[Author Unknown]



# GARS June Meeting and Workshop

## Quickly Coil Your Cables With a Spooler You Can Make

by Joe Biddle, AD4PZ

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:00 pm

## GARS Field Day Setup

by David Adcock, KA4KKF

Tuesday, June 16, 2020 7:00 pm

**GARS Meetings and Workshops  
will be held online until further notice.  
See <http://www.gars.org> for more information.**

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### **GARS Communications**

#### 2 Meter Repeaters

147.075(+) MHz Tone 82.5  
147.255(+) MHz Tone 107.2

#### 1.25 Meter Repeater

224.580(-) MHz Tone 100.0,  
1.6 MHz Offset

#### 70 Cm Repeaters

444.525(+) MHz Tone 82.5  
442.100(+) MHz Tone 100  
442.325(+) MHz Tone 100

#### 6 Meter Repeater

53.110 (-1 MHz) No Tone  
(Offline for Maintenance)

#### Other Resources:

APRS  
144.390 -- 1200 Baud  
W4GR

#### D-STAR

WD4STR  
145.060 + (1.4 MHz)  
440.550 + (5 MHz)

**Don't forget  
to support our  
advertisers at the  
back of the  
GARzette.**

Snail Mail Address:  
GARS  
P.O. Box 492531  
Lawrenceville, GA 30049

The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

Original articles, art, and photos are invited and encouraged. Previously copyrighted submissions cannot be accepted for reprinting unless permission from the appropriate publisher is provided in writing along with the information being submitted. If reprints are from publications allowing their unrestricted use, please include a copy of the printed permission contained in the publication.

If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org). Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and The *GARzette*.

The *GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4ZXV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org) Bill Eggers—WB2RIS 470-238-9603



# GARS Happenings

## 20 Years ago in the June 2000 GARzette (Special Field Day Bulletin):

- Bob Varone, W4ETN, shares a story where a Wire Antenna Balloon Kit was used to deploy a wire antenna for a recent Field Day in New Jersey;
- Pickett Cummins, AD4S, shares experiences from his first Field Day;
- Jud Whatley, W4NZJ (SK), writes about a close encounter with the Yadkin River during a Field Day supply run in a '69 Camaro;
- Jeff Lewis, KF4VQA, encourages GARS members to attend the 2000 GARS Field Day;
- John Veach, KE4D, discusses his upcoming adventures working Field Day and living in an RV full time.



You can always browse the GARzette archive at <http://www.gars.org/newsletters>

73, *Bill*, WB2RIS, GARzette Editor



# THANK YOU

**To Our Doctors, Nurses, First Responders,  
and Public Safety Officers On The Front Lines**

## GARS HELP WANTED

- GARzette Editor — Looking for someone to become the next GARzette Editor, starting off as a GARzette Committee member / Assistant Editor. Experience with Microsoft Publisher would be nice, but any experience with Microsoft Office products is helpful. You will be trained in the use of Microsoft Publisher. Most of the content is supplied by others, but occasionally you may wish to write content, especially in your area of expertise. If you are interested, please contact Bill Eggers, WB2RIS at [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org).

If you're interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please contact one of the GARS Officers. Supporting GARS activities is an important part of what we do and help from club members is needed.

[PS— Articles to publish in the GARzette, either written by GARS members or published elsewhere, are always welcome. —Ed.]



# GARS Happenings (Cont'd)

## New GARS Chatroom (Discord)

A few years ago, we had a chatroom on the GARS.org website. Unfortunately, that chatroom got hacked and we had to delete it. More recently, we have been using the chatroom functionality available to us on Groups.io. Unfortunately, the Groups.io chatroom functionality is very limited, and it doesn't even remember the last chat you read so you could pick up from where you left off.

For the last two and a half years, several of us have been testing real chatroom solutions including Discord, Slack and Microsoft Teams. (Thanks to everyone who helped testing!) Each of these solutions are very similar to each other, with only minor differences.

We have decided to go with Discord. Basically, Discord is an online text & audio based chat tool (and, it now does video chat too). You can access Discord via a web browser or an app that you can install on your Windows, Mac or Linux computer, or an app you can install on your Android or iOS device (phone or tablet). Discord is only replacing the chatroom on Groups.io. It is not replacing anything else at this time. Having the ability to chat via Discord will just give us another "tool in the toolbox" - no different than using email via groups.io versus Facebook versus Twitter.

(Continued on page 12)

## Field Day Status

Field Day 2020 will be a different animal this year. All the surrounding clubs that we spoke with are not having their regular field day operations. GARS recommends you stay safe. If you and a couple of friends want to operate at your home, go for it.

1. Use your call sign in the logging program.
2. The rules from ARRL web site will explain your class.
3. If you need help with logging software, questions on procedures, digital software, send email to [contest@gars.org](mailto:contest@gars.org)
4. GARS has been using n3fjp software for about 10 years. You will need version 6.3. It is easy software to use. you can get it at [n3fjp.com](http://n3fjp.com).
5. If you want to keep up with other GARS members scores, see their scores during Field Day, go to [w4gr.com](http://w4gr.com) and select menu Field Day, and field day 2020.
6. If you want you logs on the web site email [contest@gars.org](mailto:contest@gars.org)

This only for viewing on GARS web page. It is **not** the submission to ARRL.

Here are links to do that operation:

[http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/4\\_01-2020%20Now%20what.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/4_01-2020%20Now%20what.pdf)  
<https://field-day.arrl.org/fdentry.php>

Here are the rules: <http://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>

ARRL FAQ's: [http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1\\_62-2020%20FD%20FAQ%20Rev%20a.pdf](http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Field-Day/2020/1_62-2020%20FD%20FAQ%20Rev%20a.pdf)

I look forward to working everyone on Field Day.

73,

*David* KA4KKF

GARS Field Day Chairman 2020



# Local VE Testing Sessions

The North Fulton Amateur Radio League (NFARL) VE Team will be holding its first exam session since February this Saturday, June 13. All license class exams will be available. The exam session will be held at Slopes BBQ, 34 Crossville Road, Roswell, GA, 30075. Hours are 9:00 - 11:00 AM.

At Bob's request, this session is limited to a total of 8 candidates. There will be no walk-ins, and pre-registration will be required. Other details:

The exam fee is \$15 cash, exact change preferred for this session. Masks required. No mask, no admittance. Enter the building via the side entrance.

Please pre-register with the FCC for an FCC Registration Number (FRN) at <https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/userLogin.do>  
Please pre-fill and bring the NCVEC Quick Form 605, found at <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/605 Form 2020 Fully Interactive.pdf>

Please also bring the following:

- **Government-issued photo ID**
- **Pen and pencil**
- **If upgrading, copy of current license**
- **Calculator (as stand-alone device) if you want to use one**

The first eight candidates to respond to me at [nv4c.ian@gmail.com](mailto:nv4c.ian@gmail.com), will get seats at this session. All others will be asked to try again in July. Registrations for this session will be accepted by email ONLY. No phone registrations will be accepted, for this session only.

If you have questions, please email me at the above address, or call me at 404-626-1566.

Thanks and 73,

*Ian*, NV4C

NFARL VE Team Liaison

Source: Email sent to Atlanta Hams mailing list

Sawnee Amateur Radio Association's (SARA's) ARRL Certified Volunteer Examiner Team will conduct FCC tests for all classes of amateur license on Saturday, June 20. The location will be Grace Baptist Church at 3775 Spot Road, just north of Cumming.

Tests will be run in up to three different sessions which are 10:30 am, 12:30 pm, and, if necessary, 2:30 pm. In order to manage limited seating, testing will be by appointment. Examinees must indicate what tests they want to take. Priority will be given to examinees who are testing for Extra only, since the exams and question pool for Extra expire on June 30, 2020. Second priority will be given to those testing for General, but who want to test for Extra after passing the General.

So that proper priority and seating can be assured, all requests to take tests should be directed to [kc4i@arrl.net](mailto:kc4i@arrl.net).

On test day, examinees should bring exactly \$15 cash, a photo ID, a photocopy of any current license, any CSCE to prove previous tests passed (if needed for credit). They will need a Federal Registration Number (FRN) if they do not want to put their social security number on FCC forms. They should bring an NCVEC Quick Form 605, already filled out. This can be downloaded from

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/VEs/605 Form 2020 Fully Interactive.pdf>

Examinees must not exhibit any symptoms associated with Covid-19 (fever, cough, sneezing). They must bring a face mask.

73, *Jack*

SARA Liaison to ARRL VEC  
[kc4i@arrl.net](mailto:kc4i@arrl.net)

Source: email sent to SARA mailing list

## In Other News

### Islands On The Air Users May Obtain Award Credits via Logbook of The World

Islands On The Air ([IOTA](#)) users may now obtain contact credits via ARRL's Logbook of The World (LoTW). A similar arrangement is already in place with Club Log.

"Islands On The Air (IOTA) Ltd. is delighted to announce the implementation of the ARRL application which allows the use of QSO-matching via LoTW," IOTA's Roger Balister, G3KMA, said. "We wish to thank ARRL for having made their application available."

Balister said an initial list of operations extending from the arrangement with LoTW has been added to the IOTA database, and these will become available for contact-matching starting on May 21. "We are sure that the IOTA community will welcome this development for which they have long been pressing," Balister added.

ARRL Director of Operations Norm Fusaro, W3IZ, points out that LoTW has, for years, allowed award sponsors access to a utility that lets them verify contacts in LoTW. "The IOTA folks have begun using this utility, but still check the QSOs against known IOTA operations," he explained, noting that applicants cannot apply for IOTA awards through LoTW.

To claim a new island group from matched LoTW contacts, users would click on "Retrieve QSOs from LoTW" to retrieve matching records. Within 30 minutes, IOTA users will receive an email listing the matches added to a list of pending contacts.

Use the "Submit HF application" or "Submit VHF application" utilities to go through the steps necessary to ensure that your application is complete before submitting it. Once IOTA has accepted the LoTW-matched contacts and any others in an application supported by QSL cards, IOTA will credit the contacts to your IOTA Award account and issue any appropriate awards or certificates.



See [Instructions for LoTW QSO Matching](#) for details. [Direct correspondence](#) to the IOTA Support Desk.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/islands-on-the-air-users-may-obtain-award-credits-via-logbook-of-the-world>

### AMSAT Spells Out its GOLF Program Objectives

AMSAT says the aim of its developing "Greater Orbit, Larger Footprint" ([GOLF](#)) satellite program is to place amateur radio transponders in low-Earth orbit (LEO), medium-Earth orbit (MEO), and eventually high-Earth orbit (HEO).

"The goal of the GOLF program is to work by steps through a series of increasingly capable spacecraft to learn skills and systems for which we do not yet have any low-risk experience. Among these are active attitude control, deployable/steerable solar panels, radiation tolerance for commercial off-the-shelf components in higher orbits, and propulsion," AMSAT explains. "The first step is to be one or more LEO satellites similar to the existing AO-91 and AO-92, but with technologies needed for higher orbits. With proven technologies, an interim high LEO or MEO satellite would follow on."

AMSAT says the eventual goal is an HEO satellite similar to AO-10, AO-13, and AO-40, "but at a currently affordable cost combined with significantly enhanced capabilities, which, in turn, will allow the use of much less complex ground stations."



Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/amsat-spells-out-its-golf-program-objectives>



## In Other News (cont'd)

### Federal Judge Okays Retrieval of Titanic Marconi Wireless Equipment

A US federal judge in Virginia has given permission to retrieve the ill-fated RMS *Titanic*'s Marconi wireless gear, which transmitted distress calls from the sinking ocean liner during its maiden voyage. Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of the US District Court in Norfolk ruled that the radio gear is historically and culturally important and could soon be lost within the rapidly decaying wreck. The *Titanic* sank after striking an iceberg some 370 miles off the coast of Newfoundland in 1912.

"The Marconi device has significant historical, educational, scientific, and cultural value as the device used to make distress calls while the *Titanic* was sinking," Judge Smith wrote in her ruling. She said the company would be permitted "minimally to cut into the wreck" to access the radio room.

David Concannon, a lawyer for R.M.S Titanic Inc., which the court has recognized as the steward of the vessel's artifacts, said the company would try to avoid cutting into the ship, noting that the radio room may be reachable via a skylight that was already open. More legal wrangling may lie ahead. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) contends that the retrieval expedition is still prohibited under US law and under an international agreement between the US and the UK.

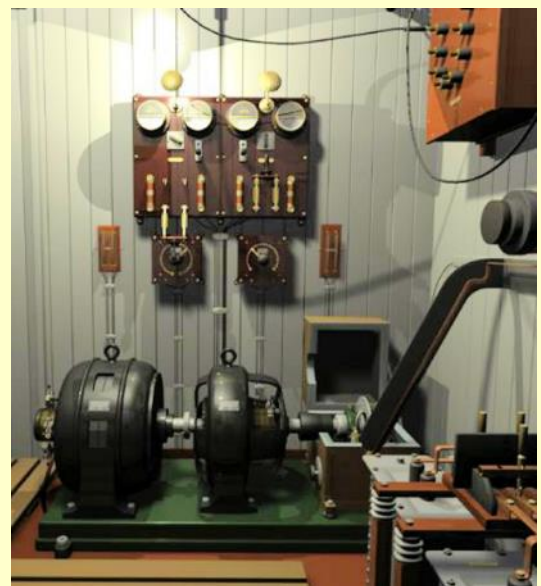
R.M.S Titanic has said the radio transmitter could unlock some of the secrets about a missed warning message and distress calls sent from the ship.

"It tells an important story," Concannon said. "It tells of the heroism of the operators that saved the lives of 705 people. They worked until water was lapping at their feet."

In an April court filing, NOAA argued against the salvage effort, saying that any benefit to be realized from cutting into the vessel to recover the Marconi equipment would not be "worth the cost to the resource and not in the public interest."

RMS *Titanic* sought permission to carry out what it called a "surgical removal and retrieval" of the Marconi radio equipment. As might be expected, the deteriorating Marconi equipment is in poor shape after more than a century under water. The undersea retrieval would mark the first time an artifact was collected from within the *Titanic*, which many believe should remain undisturbed as the final resting place of some 1,500 victims of the maritime disaster. The wreck sits on the ocean floor some 2 1/2 miles beneath the surface, and remained undiscovered until 1985. R.M.S. Titanic said it plans to use a manned submarine to reach the wreck and then deploy a remotely controlled sub to retrieve the radio equipment.

Source: <http://www.arrl.org/news/federal-judge-okays-retrieval-of-titanic-marconi-wireless-equipment>



A recreation of the Titanic radio room.



# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROL STATIONS!**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only SEVEN primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN	Bill - KK4AUA
David - KA4KKF	Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ
Russell - AB4QQ		

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I really need 26 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan and post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you as a rotating NCS need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club.

The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at [KK4TKJ@arrl.net](mailto:KK4TKJ@arrl.net). Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord*, KK4TKJ

GARS Net Manager

# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in May

None

New Members: 0

Total Members as of May 31, 2020  
342

Join GARS members for our  
weekly breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays

at

Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

(Suspended until further notice)  
([Directions](#))

The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in June:

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!**  
**From All of Us at GARS**

Gary Beckstedt (KN4VTA)  
Mark Bell (N7GRB)  
Harold Brown (KI4FPR)  
Neil Cleveland (WB4OXY)  
Hope Collier  
John Davis (WB4QDX)  
Jim Gaffney (K4YNA)  
Sarah Harden (KK4WEM)  
James Hinkle (AG4ON)  
Ray Kaplan (KA9GJL)  
Yubin Lin (KM4TVY)  
Fisher Londono (KN4FWN)  
Ralph Matchette (KE4IHD)  
Rick Morris (KD4VOJ)  
Lew Newlin (KM4YWK)  
Brian Page (N4TRB)  
Robert Pence (KM4AAP)  
Charles Roberts (K4HFO)  
Ron Rogers (WW8RR)  
Bill Van Duynhoven (KE4TVA)  
Courtney Wagner (KN4GZI)

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail  
towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.),  
please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Dave Bruse, W4DTR, Pam Meridy, WB1AKQ,  
Ivette Santiago, KN4OYE, Cathy Kelley, KN4DML

**EXTRA! EXTRA!****Repeater Status**

6M	Currently down
147.075	Operational in Snellville
147.255	Operational in Snellville
224.580	Operational in Grayson
442.100	Operational at Goshen Springs
442.325	Operational in Buford
444.525	Operational in Snellville

Link remote receivers being added

**Donating to GARS**

Your GARS donation can be used for a certain purpose by donating to one of these funds:

- GARS SK Memorial Fund for Education (to remember and honor Silent Keys);
- GARS Scholarship Fund (Administered by the ARRL for awarding scholarships);
- GARS General Fund (any club purpose).

GARS has joined these rewards programs (a portion of every purchase you make through these merchants may be donated to GARS):

- Amazon Smiles;
- Kroger Community Rewards program.

For more information on how to sign up for these rewards programs, or to donate to GARS, visit <http://gars.org/gars/donations-to-the-club>

**GARS on Social Media**

GARS has moved to Groups.io!



Join GARS on Groups.io:  
<http://gars.org/groups.io>



Visit GARS on Facebook:  
<http://gars.org/facebook>








Follow GARS on Twitter:  
<http://gars.org/twitter>

















Join GARS on YouTube:  
<http://gars.org/youtube>





**G A R S Volunteers****OFFICERS**

John Davis, President	WB4QDX	
Sandy Jackson, Vice President	KJ4DRO	
Joe Biddle, Secretary	AD4PZ	
Pam Meridy, Treasurer	WB1AKQ	
Randy Collins, Program Manager	N4COR	

**MANAGERS/COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

Karen Albritton, Membership Chair	KI4HPP	
Dave Bruse, VE Team Leader	W4DTR	
David Adcock, Webmaster and Field Day Chair	KA4KKF	
Ralph Pickwick, Apparel Manager and Education Chair	KJ4CNC	
Glen Wendt, TechFest Chair	W3WWT	
Bill Eggers, GARzette Editor	WB2RIS	
Eddie Foust, Repeater Chair	WD4JEM	
Mike Weathers, WAS / DXCC QSL Card Checker and Historian	ND4V	
Chuck McCord, Net Manager	KK4TKJ	
Mike Swiderski, Technical / RFI Advisor	K4HBI	
Joe Biddle, Winter Field Day Chair	AD4PZ	
Kyle Albritton, Multimedia Chair	W4KDA	
Don Stewart, Elmer Manager	KW4AL	
Dave Slotter, Georgia QSO Party Chair, Workshop Leader and Public Information Officer	W3DJS	

**DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES**

Kyle Albritton, W4KDA		Rick Cobb, N4XYX	
Mike Weathers, ND4V		Bill Cherepy, WB4WTN W4GR Trustee	



## GARS MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES

**President John Davis (WB4QDX) and Opened the meeting at 7:00pm and Closed the meeting at 8:30pm  
(Covid-19 Alternative Online)**

**Online participants: ~48.**

**Treasurer Report: Pam Meridy (WB1AKQ) – read the financial report.**

**Membership Report: John reported the Membership is at [ 341 ].**

**Programs: June – TBD**

**GARS Workshop - Dave (W3DJS) outlined the**

next workshop for programming radios with Chirp.

**GARS Education – Ralph (KJ4CNC) mentioned:** McConnell Middle School had their last meeting for the year discussing the cancelled events and fall plans.

**Program – Kevin Scott, (K4GTR) Practical Camouflage Techniques and Rate your coax**

Submitted by: **Joe Biddle (AD4PZ) GARS Secretary**

(No May Workshop minutes available)

*(New GARS Chatroom (Discord), continued from page 5)*

A chatroom is a Virtual Clubhouse for all of us to use - stop by and say hello. It is another great way to keep in touch with each other while we are social distancing from each other. Here is a link to the Northeast Maryland Amateur Radio Club's website, discussing what is a Virtual Clubhouse in a YouTube video, how they use it, along with several frequently asked questions about Discord - <http://www.nemarc.org/clubhouse.html>.

To get started, go to <https://discord.com/> and click on the "Login" button in the upper-right corner of the screen, then click on the "Register" link towards the bottom of the screen and follow the directions to create a FREE login. Optionally, you can enable two-factor authentication (2FA). I suggest using your call sign, a space, a dash, a space, and your nickname as your username (W4DTR - Dave). You can use whatever you prefer, and you can change how your nickname appears to this format once you are on the GARS Discord server. We just ask that your nickname appears in this format on the GARS Discord server so everyone will know who you are. If you have problems changing your nickname, just ask myself or one of the other @admins or @moderators for help on Discord and we will be glad to help you.

Once you are connected to Discord, then you will need to join the GARS Discord server. Discord does this via invite links. Simply click on the link below which will open in your web browser, sign in to your Discord account (if you are not already signed in), and that's it. This link is only good for 24 hours. I will post new link to the GARS group at Groups.io every other day for a while, or feel free to email the admins directly ([discord@gars.org](mailto:discord@gars.org)) for an invite.

You should now be connected to the GARS Discord server. In the web browser and the computer app, you should see a list of Discord servers in the left-hand side (GARS and Discord usually creates a default server for yourself which you can delete if you don't want it). Once on the GARS Discord server, you will see several Text chat channels along with a Voice chat channel. We have created a bunch of Text chat channels for several different subjects. Most chatting will occur on the general text channel. Announcements will be found on the announcement channel, if you have an item for sale or swap, or you are looking to purchase an item, look at the want-sell-swap channel, and so on.

Let me know if you have any questions.

73 - *Dave*, W4DTR  
[discord@gars.org](mailto:discord@gars.org)

## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

From ARRL Contest Calendar  
> For more information click the links <

### June 2020

13-15 [June VHF](#)  
20 [Kid's Day](#)  
27-28 [Field Day](#)

### July 2020

11-12 [IARU HF World Championship](#)

### August 2020

1-2 [222 MHz and Up Distance Contest](#)  
15-16 [10 GHz & Up – Round 1](#)  
16 [Rookie Roundup – RTTY](#)

### September 2020

12-13 [EME - 2.3 GHz & Up](#)  
12-14 [September VHF](#)  
19-20 [10 GHz & Up - Round 2](#)

### October 2020

10-11 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)  
19-23 [School Club Roundup](#)

### November 2020

7-9 [Nov. Sweepstakes - CW](#)  
21-23 [Nov. Sweepstakes - Phone](#)  
28-29 [EME - 50 to 1296 MHz](#)

### December 2020

4-6 [160 Meter](#)  
12-13 [10 Meter](#)  
20 [Rookie Roundup-CW](#)

### January 2021

1 [Straight Key Night](#)  
2 [Kid's Day](#)  
2-3 [RTTY Roundup](#)  
16-18 [January VHF Sweepstakes](#)

### February 2021

8-12 [School Club Roundup](#)  
20-21 [International DX – CW](#)

### March 2021

6-7 [International DX– Phone](#)

### April 2021

11 [Rookie Roundup – Phone](#)

(no ARRL contests in May)

For more information:

<http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### 06/06/2020 - [Atlanta Hamfest, ARRL Georgia State Convention 2020](#) (CANCELLED)

Location: Marietta, GA

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club W4DOC & Kennehoochee  
Amateur Radio Club W4BTI

Website: <http://atlantahamfest.org>

### 06/20/2020 - [Knoxville Hamfest and Electronics Convention, ARRL TN State Convention](#) (CANCELLED)

Location: Knoxville, TN

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Radio Amateur Club of Knoxville

Website: <http://WWW.W4BBB.ORG>

### 07/25/2020 - [WCARS Hamfest](#) (CANCELLED)

Location: Waynesville, NC

Type: ARRL Hamfest

Sponsor: Western Carolina Amateur Radio Society

Website: <http://www.wcars.org/wcarshamfest.htm>

### 08/22/2020 - 08/23/2020

### [Huntsville Hamfest - ARRL Southeastern Division Convention](#) (CANCELLED)

Location: Huntsville, AL

Type: ARRL Convention

Sponsor: Huntsville Hamfest Inc.

Website: <http://hamfest.org>

For more information: <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests-and-conventions-calendar>

When searching by division, remember some states adjacent to GA are in different divisions:

Southeastern: GA, AL, FL Delta: TN Roanoke: NC, SC



GARS Events Calendar for 2020	GARS Recurring Calendar
<p>TechFest (<a href="http://www.techfest.info">www.techfest.info</a>) January 18</p> <p>Winter Field Day January 25&amp;26</p> <p>General HamCram TBD</p> <p><b>Dog Show Fundraiser Cancelled for 2020</b></p> <p>Georgia QSO Party April 11 (home ops)</p> <p>North metro area Fox Hunt April</p> <p><b>Memorial Day Parade Cancelled for 2020</b></p> <p><b>ARC/KARC Hamfest Cancelled for 2020</b></p> <p>Field Day June 27&amp;28</p> <p>Tech HamCrams <b>Mar (canceled)</b>, Nov</p> <p>JOTA October</p> <p>Maker Faire TBD</p> <p>Stone Mt. Hamfest November 7&amp;8</p> <p>Holiday Party December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Club Meeting (<b>online until further notice</b>)</li> <li>♦ 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm (except December): Monthly Workshop (<b>online until further notice</b>)</li> <li>♦ 2nd Sunday of the Month at 2 pm (<b>suspended until further notice</b>): <a href="#">GARS Ham Exam Session</a> Fire Station #24 2735 Mall of Georgia Blvd Buford, GA 30519</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Every Monday at 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater</li> <li>♦ Most Saturdays at 7:30 am (<b>suspended until further notice</b>): GARS Weekly Breakfast Golden Corral Restaurant 2155 Riverside Parkway, Lawrenceville, GA 30043</li> </ul>
<p><b>July GARS Meeting:</b></p> <p><b>ARRL Update by Mickey Baker, N4MB</b> (ARRL Southeastern Division Director)</p>	

#### GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JUNE 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
May 31	1 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	2	3	4	5	6 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
7	8 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	9 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Meeting (Online)	10	11	12	13 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
14 <b>GARS VE Team Testing Session (Canceled)</b>	15 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	16 7:00 - 9:00 pm GARS Workshop (Online)	17	18	19	20 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>
21 <b>HAPPY FATHER'S DAY</b>	22 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	23	24	25	26	27 <b>Field Day Begins</b>
28 <b>Field Day Ends</b>	29 7:30 - 8:00 pm GARS 2m Net	30	31	July 1	July 2	July 3 Breakfast at Golden Corral <b>Suspended until further notice</b>



## Metro Testing Sessions

[Please check with each session contact for current status.—Ed.]

*GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in, unless otherwise noted. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <http://www.arrl-ga.org>.*

### First Sunday, ODD Months

2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, & Nov)

VEC: WCARS

Braselton Public Utility Building

4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA

Contact: Roger Gibson, WB4T

(770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560

[w4rlg@bellsouth.net](mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec)

VEC: WCARS

Hall County EOC

470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga.

Contact: Perry Roper, KO4RD

(770) 536-3056

### Second Saturday

10:00 AM

Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center

13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004

Contact: Ian Kahn, KM4IK

E-mail: [km4ik.ian@gmail.com](mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com)

### Third Saturday, ODD Months

VEC: ARRL

9:30 am (Walk-ins welcome)

Stone Mountain Masonic Lodge

840 VFW Drive

Stone Mountain, GA 30083

Contact: Frank Haynes, KV4SP

Email: [fhaynes@vatmom.net](mailto:fhaynes@vatmom.net)

(678) 467-3712

### Second Sunday

VEC: W5YI

2 pm

Fire Station #24

Mall of Georgia Boulevard

Buford, GA 30519

Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR

E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

### First Sunday, EVEN Months

VEC: WCARS and W5YI

2 pm @ Barrow Co. Emerg. Serv. Bldg

66 McElroy Street

Winder, GA 30680

Contact: Mike Wolcott, W4WYI

(404) 281-6581

E-mail: [W4WYI@ARRL.net](mailto:W4WYI@ARRL.net)

(cont. next column)

## Ham Exam Results

### May Results

No May VE Session

[As far as we are aware, no VE sessions have been conducted in the Metro Atlanta area in the past 30 days. Other local clubs are starting to hold limited VE sessions. See the articles on Page 6 in this issue of the GARzette for more details. —Ed.]

GARS VE Team Leaders

E-mail: [exams@gars.org](mailto:exams@gars.org)

GARS VE Website:

<http://gars.org/exams>



### Fourth Tuesday

ARRL VEC

7 pm @ United Way Service Center

6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville

Contact: Jessie Clower, KB4WFK

(770) 942-6466

### Fourth Sunday

2:30 pm Georgia Tech

VanLeer Elec. Building

Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr.

For more information go to

[www.w4aql.com](http://www.w4aql.com) and click on "Test

Sessions"

## Metro Club Meetings

[Please check with each club for meeting schedule and method (online, etc.) - Ed.]

### First Tuesday

Kennehoochee ARC

Fire Station #1, Training Room

112 Haynes Street, Marietta, GA

Meeting begins at 7:00pm

Talk In 146.880(-)

### First Thursday

Atlanta Radio Club

Georgia Red Cross HQ

1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta, GA

Meeting is at 7:30pm

Talk In -146.820(-)

N.E. Georgia ARC

Commerce Public Library

1344 South Broad Street, Commerce, GA

Meeting is at 6:30pm

Talk In - 147.225(+), PL 123.0

### Second Monday

Georgia Tech ARC

Room W218

Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg.

Georgia Tech Campus

Meeting at 7:00pm

Sawnee Amateur Radio Association

Beaver Toyota

1875 Buford Highway, Cumming, GA

Meeting at 6:30

### Second Thursday

Alford Memorial Radio Club

Annistown Road Baptist Church

Annistown Rd & Spain Rd

Stone Mountain, GA

Dinner at 6:00pm, Meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 146.760(-)

### Second Saturday

North GA QRP Club

Board Room of The Shepherd Center

2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta, GA

at 10:00 AM

### Third Tuesday

North Fulton Amateur Radio League

Alpharetta Recreation & Parks Dept.

Alpharetta Adult Activity Center

13450 Cogburn Road, Alpharetta, GA

meeting at 7:30pm

Talk In - 145.47(-)

For more information, go to:

<http://www.gars.org/>

[Note: No store access; curbside delivery available until further notice. - Ed.]

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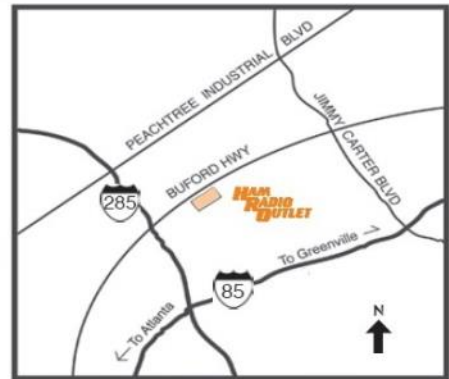
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